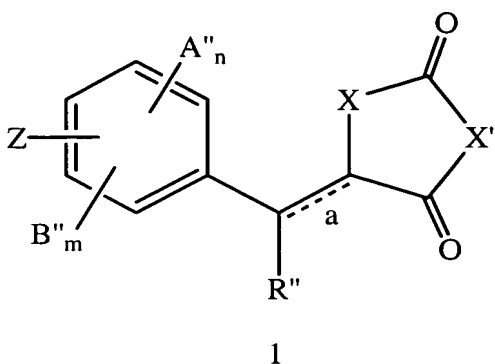


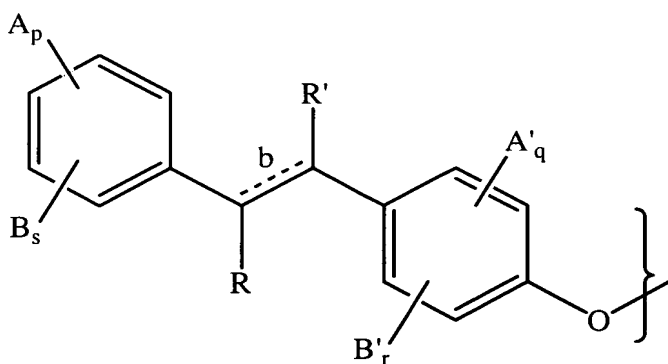
Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

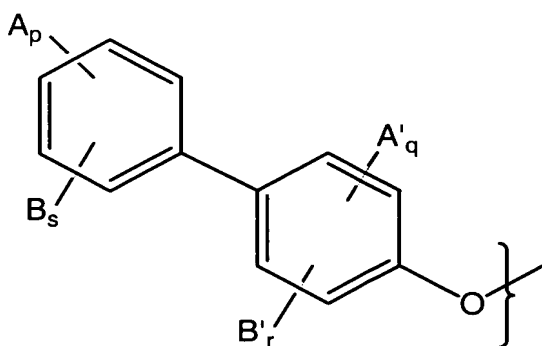
1. (Original) A compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a , b and

c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

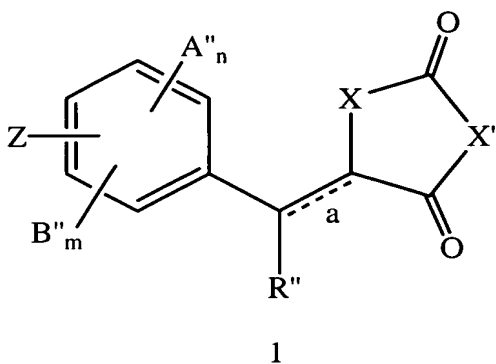
A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

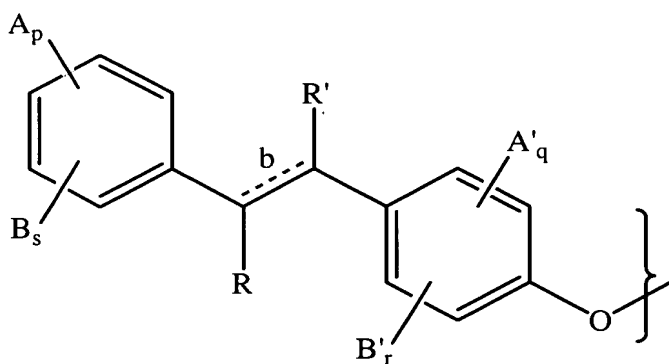
or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

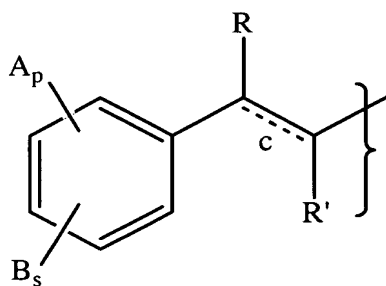
2. (Original) A compound represented by the following formula 1:



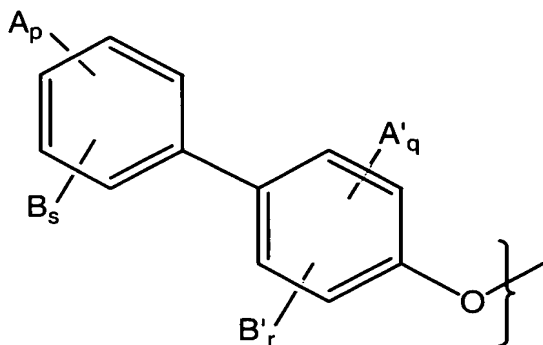
wherein Z is



or



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; $-CONR_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OR'''$; $-CONR_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; or $-(CH_2)_x$ -Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

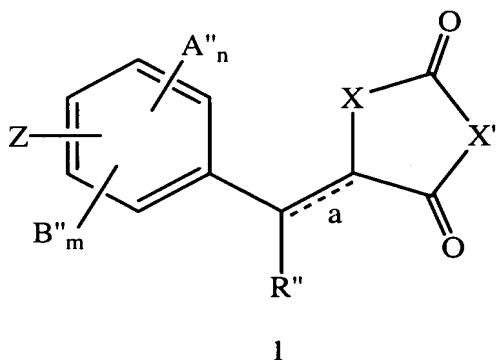
A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

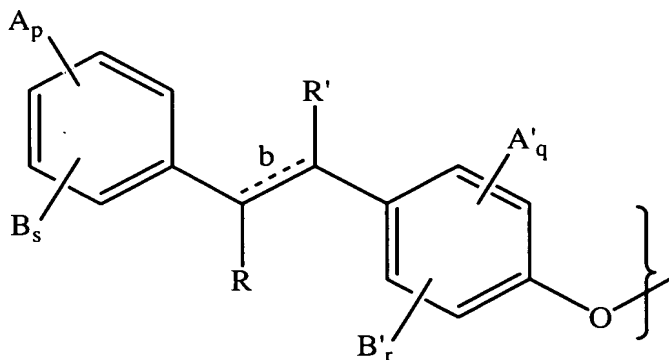
or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'', -O-, or -S-.

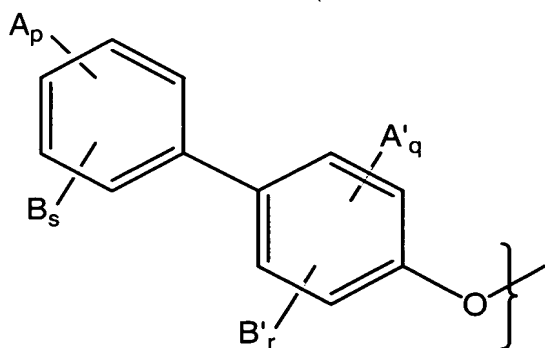
3. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R''''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR''''$; $-NR_2''''$; $-OH$; $-OR''''$; $-CONR_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R''''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR''''$; $-NR_2''''$; $-OH$; $-OR''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

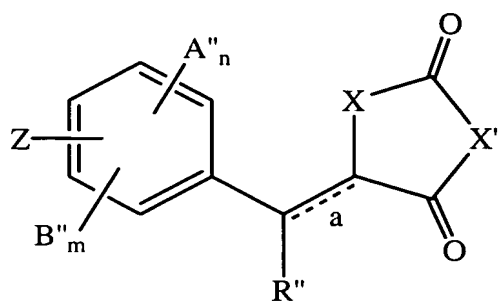
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-;

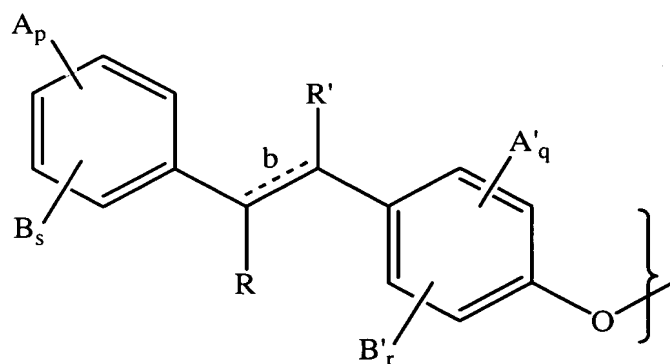
in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

4. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

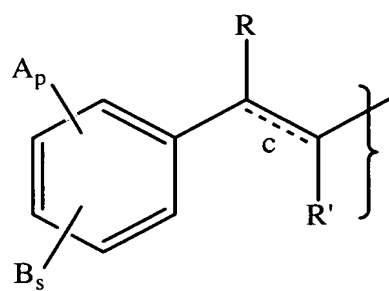


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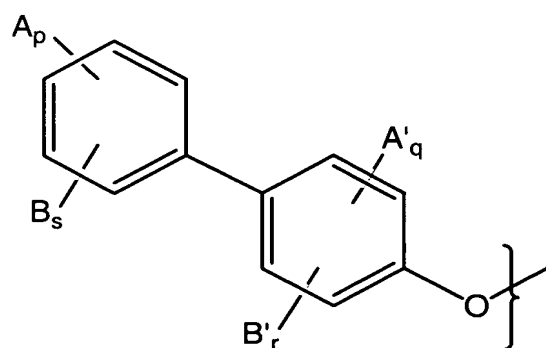
wherein Z is



or



or



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

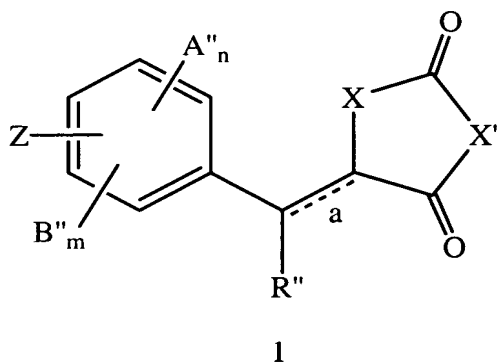
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

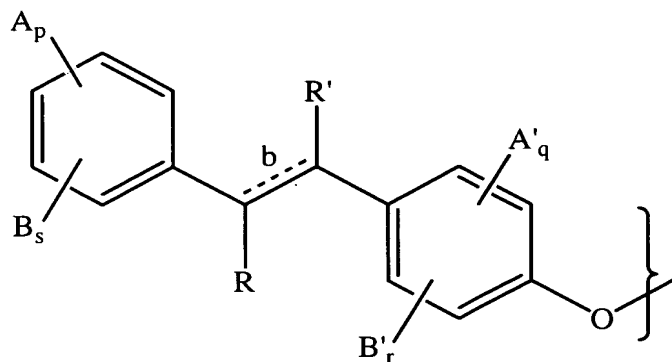
X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

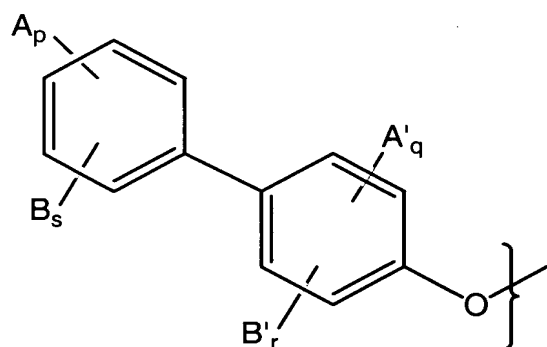
5. (Original) A method of treating diabetes comprising:
administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; $-CONR_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

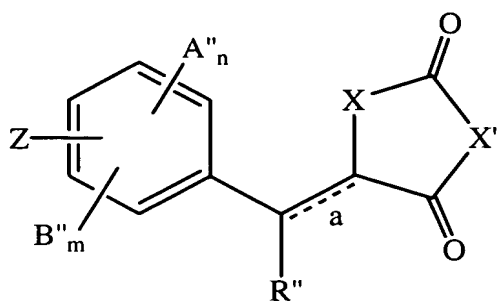
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-;

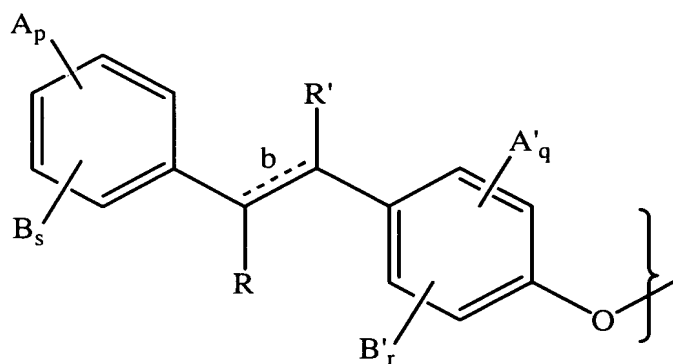
in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

6. (Original) A method of treating diabetes comprising:
administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

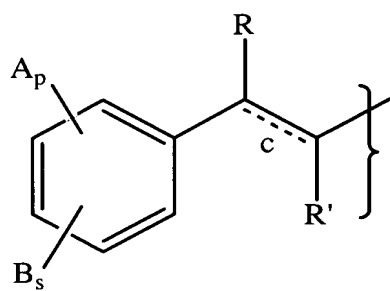


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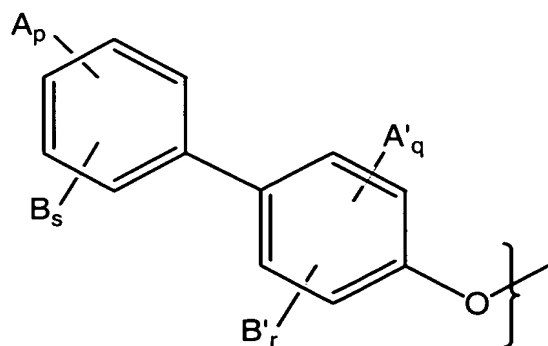
wherein Z is



or



or



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2\text{Z}'$; $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OH}$; $-\text{OR}'''$; $-\text{CONR}_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2\text{Z}'$; $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OR}'''$; $-\text{CONR}_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2\text{Z}'$; $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OH}$; $-\text{OR}'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; or $-(\text{CH}_2)_x\text{-Ar}$, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; optionally substituted C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; optionally substituted C_6 - C_{10} aryl; or NR_2'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

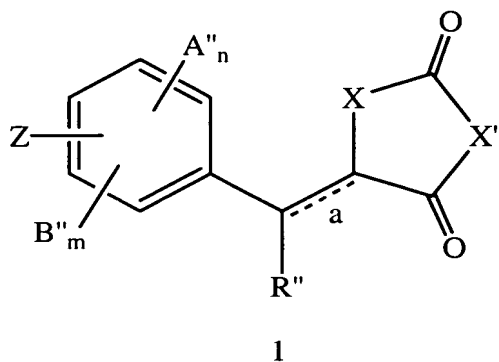
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

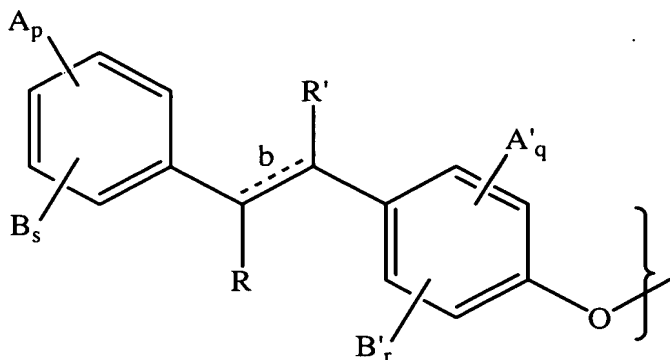
X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

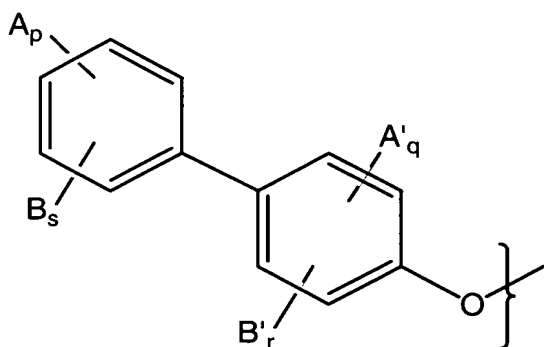
7. (Original) A method of treating inflammation or inflammatory disease comprising:
administering to a subject suffering from such condition, a therapeutically effective
amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2\text{Z}'$; $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OH}$; $-\text{OR}'''$; $-\text{CONR}_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2\text{Z}'$; $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OH}$; $-\text{OR}'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

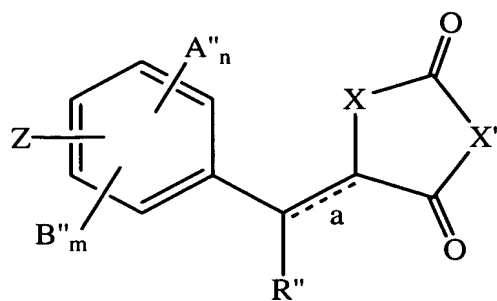
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-;

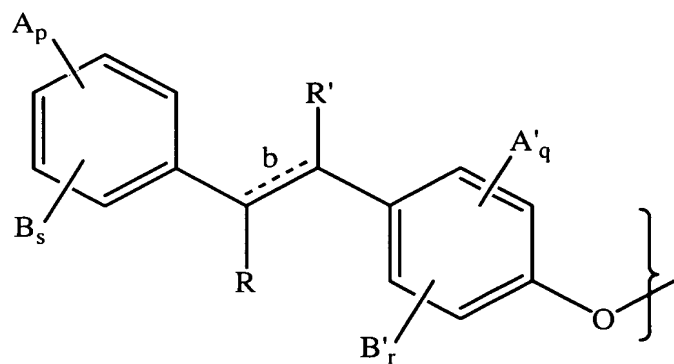
in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

8. (Original) A method of treating inflammation or inflammatory disease comprising:
administering to a subject suffering from such condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

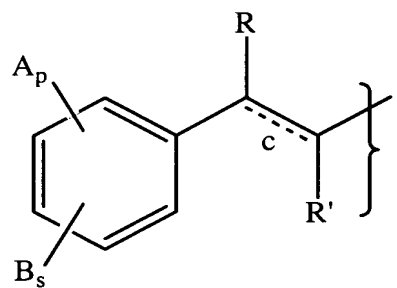


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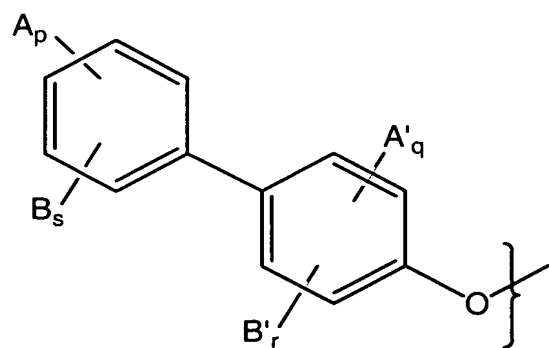
wherein Z is



or



or



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

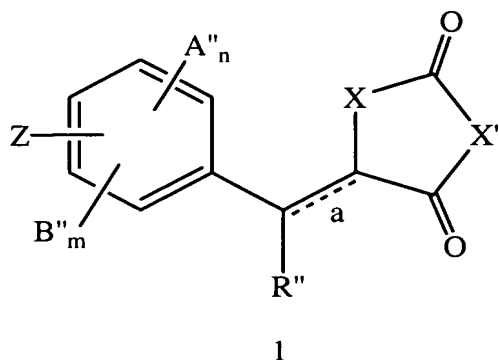
B, B' and B" each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

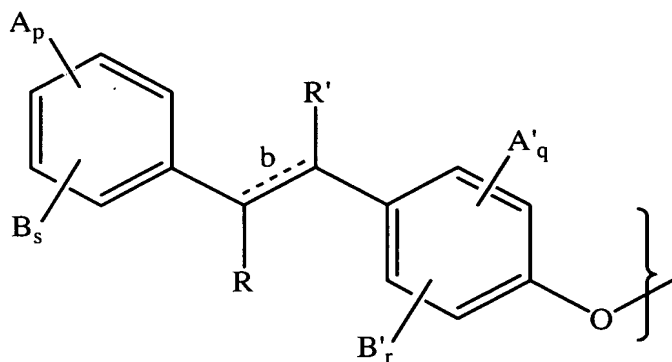
X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

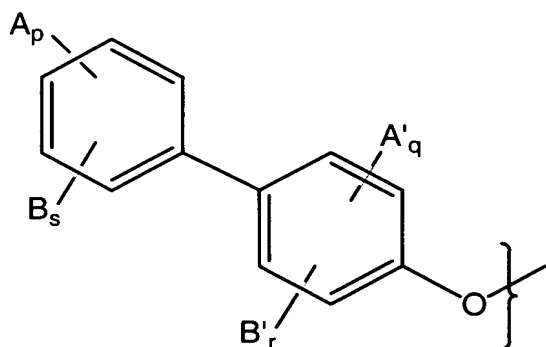
9. (Original) A method of treating immunological disease comprising:
administering to a subject suffering from an immunological disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; $-CONR_2''''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

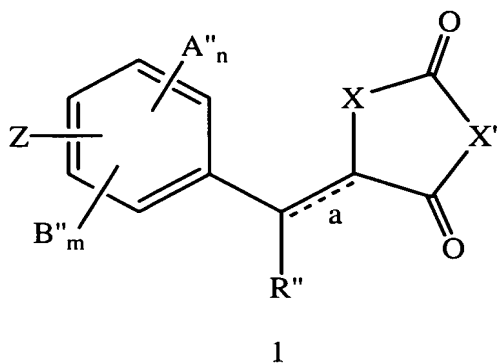
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

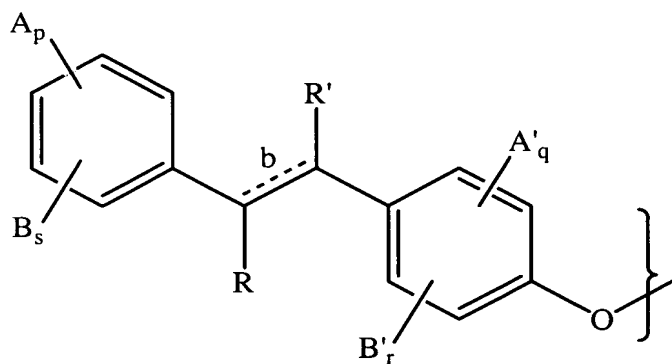
X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

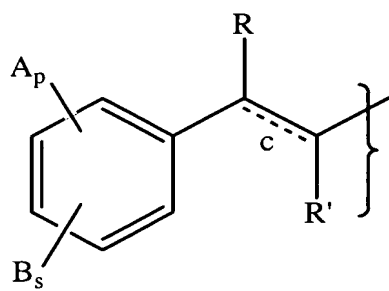
10. (Original) A method of treating immunological disease comprising:
administering to a subject suffering from an immunological disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



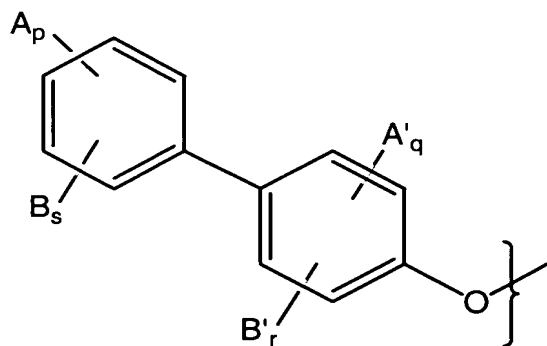
wherein Z is



or



or



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a, b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; or -(CH₂)_x-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; optionally substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; optionally substituted C₆-C₁₀ aryl; or NR₂'''' represents a cyclic moiety;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted, linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR'', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

11. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the activity of TNF-alpha, IL-1, IL-6 or COX-2 which comprises administering to a host in need of such inhibition an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

12. (Currently amended) The method of inhibiting the undesired action of cytokine or cyclooxygenase which comprises administering to a host in need of such inhibition an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

13. (Currently amended) The method of treating a disease mediated by cytokines or cyclooxygenase which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

14. (Currently amended) The method of treating insulin resistance which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

15. (Currently amended) The method of treating hyperlipidemia which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

16. (Currently amended) The method of treating coronary heart disease which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

17. (Currently amended) The method of treating multiple sclerosis which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

18. (Currently amended) The method of treating cancer which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~.

19. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-3-p-tolylacrylic acid,
2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-3-p-tolylacrylic acid,
2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-3-p-tolylacrylic acid methyl ester,
3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid methyl ester,
5-(4-{4-[2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-1-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-vinyl]-phenoxy}-benzyl)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(4-{4-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-phenoxy}-benzyl)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(4-{4-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-phenoxy}-benzyl)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(2',4'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione, and
5-[4-(3',5'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione.

20. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-3-p-tolylacrylic acid,
2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-3-p-tolylacrylic acid,
2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-3-p-tolylacrylic acid methyl ester,
3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid methyl ester,
5-(4-{4-[2-(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-1-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-vinyl]-phenoxy}-benzyl)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(4-{4-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-phenoxy}-benzyl)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(4-{4-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-vinyl]-phenoxy}-benzyl)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(2',4'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione, and
5-[4-(3',5'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
together with a physiologically acceptable carrier therefor.

21. (Currently amended) A method for treating diabetes, comprising: co-administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ and an agent selected from the group consisting of:

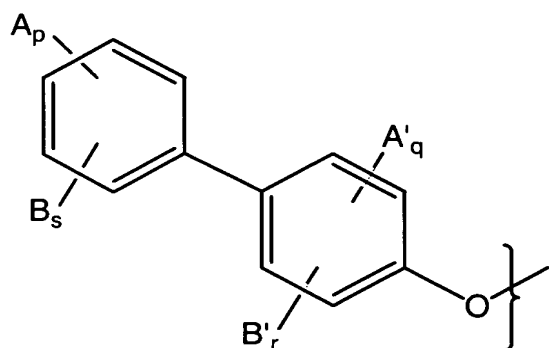
insulin or an insulin mimetic,

- a sulfonylurea or other insulin secretagogue,
- a thiazolidinedione,
- a fibrate or other PPAR-alpha agonist,
- a PPAR-delta agonist,
- a biguanide,
- a statin or other hydroxymethylglutaryl (HMG) CoA reductase inhibitor,
- an alpha-glucosidase inhibitor,
- a bile acid-binding resin,
- apoA1,
- niacin,
- probucol,
- and nicotinic acid.

22. (Currently amended) A method for treating inflammatory or immunological disease, comprising: co-administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ and an agent selected from the group consisting of:

- a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID),
- a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor,
- a corticosteroid or other immunosuppressive agent,
- a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD),
- a TNF-alpha inhibitor,
- other cytokine inhibitor,
- other immune modulating agent,
- and a narcotic agent.

23. (Original) The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is represented by:



24. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 wherein Z is represented by:

